



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No: 37697-0033

In re patent application of

Edward W. MERRILL *et al.*

Confirmation No.: 8881

Serial No.: 09/764,445

Art Unit: 3738

Filed: January 19, 2001

For: Radiation and Melt Treated Ultra High Molecular Weight  
Polyethylene Prosthetic Devices

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D.16.  
1-31-02  
RECEIVED  
AUG - 7 2001  
TECHNICAL ROOM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT B**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please enter the following amendments. Please debit any underpayments, or credit any overpayments, to firm deposit account no. 08-1641.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please add the claims set forth below.

B 1  
131. (New) An orthopaedic preformed material for subsequent production of a medical implant with improved wear resistance, said preformed material is a polyethylene crosslinked by irradiation, and thermally treated according to the method selected from the group consisting of: annealing and remelting.